

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

SSO-00 NSCE-00 RSR-01 SY-10 M-03 A-01 SCA-01 PPT-02

CPR-02 /087 W

----- 055512

P R 141130 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9735

INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DACCA 2167

E. O., 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINS US BG

SUBJ: DETENTION OF USIS FNE AT DACCA AIRPORT ENROUTE TO US

FOR NEA/ PAB; USIA FOR ISA, IBS

1. USIS FNE-2, K. RAFIQUH HUQ, CHIEF, MOPIX- RADIO SECTION, BEING TRANSFERRED TO VOA WASHINGTON WAS TO DEPART DACCA MAY 14 AT 0930 ON US GOVERNMENT TRAVEL ORDERS. HE WAS TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY WIFE AND DAUGHTER. AFTER BEING COMPLETELY CLEARED THROUGH ALL AIRPORT DEPARTURE FORMALITIES, HIS PASSPORT WAS SUDDENLY SEIZED AT THE EXIT BY THE SECURITY OFFICER ON DUTY. THE CHARGE D' AFFAIRES AND PAO ARRIVED AT AIRPORT FOR FAREWELL JUST IN TIME TO WITNESS EPISODE.

2. CHARGE MADE STRONG INQUIRIES OF SECURITY OFFICER, A SECOND LIEUTENANT, WHO REPEATEDLY STATED HE ONLY TOOK ORDERS, COULD NOT EXPLAIN, AND REFUSED TO IDENTIFY THE ORIGIN OF THE PRESUMABLY TELEPHONIC ORDER AND ALSO THE TIME THE ORDER WAS

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RECEIVED. CHARGE REQUESTED HIM TO TELEPHONE SHAMS- UL ALAM, DG MFA, WHICH HE DID AND CHARGE THEN REQUESTED EXPLANATION OF INCIDENT.

3. DESPITE REPEATED CONTACT BY TELEPHONE AND BY A PERSONAL CALL OF CHARGE AT MFA, WE STILL HAVE NO EXPLANATION. ALAM CONFIDENTIALLY AND OFF THE RECORD AGREED WITH CHARGE' S SURMISE THAT HOME MINISTRY ACTION WAS PROBABLY PRECIPITATED BY SOMEONE' S SPITEFUL DENUNCIATION. ALAM OFFERED NO EXPLANATION AS TO WHY HOME SECRETARY GAVE CREDENCE WITH SUCH ALACRITY TO STILL UNSPECIFIED ALLEGATIONS.

4. MFA INSISTED ON SOVEREIGN RIGHT OF BDG TO DEAL WITH ONE OF ITS OWN NATIONALS AS IT SEES FIT. CHARGE MAINTAINED THAT US MISSION ENTITLED TO COURTESY OF EXPLANATION THIS HIGH- HANDED AND DISCOURTEOUS TREATMENT OF VETERAN USG EMPLOYEE.

5. IN CIRCUMSTANCES WE CANNOT AT THIS MOMENT FORECAST WHEN PRECISELY RAFIQUH HUQ WILL BE PERMITTED TO PROCEED. WE ARE INCLINED TO EXPECT THAT MATTER WILL BE CLEARED UP WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. CHARGE WILL STAY IN CONTACT WITH MFA TO SPEED UP RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM. NEEDLESS TO SAY, WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT HOME SECRETARY HAD NO REAL BASIS FOR TAKING THIS PUNITIVE ACTION. WILL REPORT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.
NEWBERRY

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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30 JUN 2005

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